missioner had addressed Government on this subject and he himself had brought forward the same for the consideration of Government at the last session of the Assembly. He prayed that some such provision as was contained in the Madras District Municipalities Act might be introduced, as a tentative measure in some town, to see how far it worked, and then extended to the other towns also.

Mr. Ponnaiya Nadar of Eraniel (Nominated) suggested that a register of births and deaths might be maintained in every village certified by the principal member thereof and that the requisite books for this purpose might be furnished by the Government, as otherwise it would not be possible to ensure uniformity.

Reply.—Section 109 of the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation (III of 1076) requires the committee to keep a register of births and deaths and sections 110 to 112 contemplate an officer of the committee obtaining the information. What is intended by these provisions seems to be not to impose the primary obligation to furnish information on the parents or other relations of the new-born or the deceased. In November last, in reviewing the report on the administration of the Sanitary department for 1081, Government took up this subject and have invited proposals from the Presidents of the Town Improvement Committees as to the expediency of introducing compulsory registration of births and deaths within the areas under their charge, and the matter will receive attention in due course. The member has properly not suggested its extension to the rural parts of the State, as there are numerous difficulties in the way.

As regards Mr. Ponnaiya Nadar's suggestion, vital statistics are now kept in each proverty cutcherry, but the enforcement of a certificate from the principal member of the family requires legislation.

157. Introduction of village sanitation.

Mr. Paul Daniel M. A., L. T., (Native Christian Association, Nagercoil) said that the sanitation of rural parts was very much neglected and that contagious diseases in certain seasons of the year made terrible havoc among the people on account of their want of attention to sanitary matters. He suggested that village sanitary boards might be organized under the presidency of Tahsildars to remove this defect.

Reply.—Forty-two villages are now under rural conservancy

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and more will be taken up gradually. It is not practicable to organize sanitary boards at present.

158. Introduction of compulsory vaccination.

Mr. V. A. Ramakrishna Iyer B. A., B. L. (T. I. C., Trivandrum) represented that vaccination was now only optional even in towns and he had dwelt at length at the last session of the Assembly on the necessity for making it compulsory. In the absence of such a provision, it was not possible to maintain public health in a satisfactory state.

Reply.—In their review of the report of the working of the Sanitary department for 1081 already referred to, Government have remarked: "The question of compulsory infantile vaccination in towns will be separately considered." This requires legislation and will receive attention.

159. Investing Presidents of Town Improvement Committees with the revenue powers of the Division Peishkar for the collection of fees and cesses under Regulation III of 1076.

Mr. S. Krishna Iyer, B. A., B. L., (T. I. C., Alleppey) observed that he made this suggestion with a view to remove the difficulty now experienced by the T. I. C. at Alleppey where the President, not being a Division Peishkar, did not possess the necessary powers for the speedy collection of fees and cesses under the Regulation.

Reply.—In towns in which the Peishkar is himself the President, there can be no difficulty. In Alleppey, however, the Presidentship is vested in another officer. No communication, however, has yet been received from the Committee there, as to the existence of the difficulties pointed out. Any representation from the Committee, if received, will be duly considered.

160. Desirability of increasing the number of native Vaidyasalas and incurring additional expenditure for their up-keep.

Mr. Chithira Nal Tampuran of Vadakumkur, Vaikam (Nominated) said that the number of grant-in-aid Vaidyasalas should be increased so as to admit of one Vaidyasala being maintained in every proverty, and that more Government aid should be given to these institutions.

Reply.—Native Vaidyasalas are institutions peculiar to this

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